

Cemeteries - National National Cemetery *TERRE HAUTE STAR* Asked For Indiana *(back)*

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (Special)—Indiana State Treasurer John H. Snyder called here Friday for the creation of a National Cemetery in Indiana. He said "Indiana has historically given of its finest men far out of proportion to its size in the defense of freedom. And yet it is sad to reflect that when a Hoosier falls in battle or a veteran passes on he can not be buried in a National Cemetery in Indiana, because we have none."

A state group that has been trying to get the federal government interested in this cemetery has proposed that it be lo-

cated south of Terre Haute so as to be accessible to most Hoosiers. They point out that the new interstate and the proposed four-lane U.S. 40 would make it possible for people from over the state to come to this area without facing too many traffic problems.

Snyder made his suggestion in a Memorial Day statement released from his office.

"When a man or woman risks his or her life in defense of freedom, that American deserves continuing honor by a grateful citizenry. It is only proper that the mortal remains of our veterans be close to their loved ones and accorded the honor of burial in a cemetery created and maintained by the government of the United States.

"There is a bill presently pending in the United States Congress, H. R. 689) to create a system of national cemeteries in all parts of the nation. There is no doubt but that Indiana should be a part of that national system. As of Dec. 31, 1968, there were 543,000 veterans in Indiana: 70,000 from the Vietnam War, 108,000 from the Korean conflict, 322,000 from World War II, and 43,000 from World War I.

"Those who want burial in a national cemetery, and who are prevented from burial in Arlington because of space requirements, should have the proper interment. A National Cemetery in Indiana would do honor to those to whom too much honor is given these days, our veterans."

National Cemetery

Tribune 6-2-69 Page 14

Gets Support

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (Special) — Efforts by veterans groups to obtain a National Cemetery south of Terre Haute received an indirect assist from State Treasurer John K. Snyder on Friday as the Indiana official released a Memorial Day statement calling for the establishment of a National Cemetery in this state.

Snyder said, "Indiana has historically given of its finest men far out of proportion to its size in the defense of freedom. And yet it is sad to reflect that when a Hoosier falls in battle or a veteran passes on he can not be buried in a National Cemetery in Indiana, because we have none."

A state group that has been trying to get the federal government interested in this cemetery has proposed that it be located south of Terre Haute so as to be accessible to most Hoosiers. They point out that the new interstate and the proposed four-lane U.S. 41 would make it possible for people from over the state to come to this area without facing too many traffic problems.

Snyder made his suggestion in a Memorial Day statement released from his office.

"When a man or woman risks his or her life in defense of freedom, that American deserves continuing honor by a

grateful citizenry. It is only proper that the mortal remains of our veterans be close to their loved ones and accorded the honor of burial in a cemetery created and maintained by the government of the United States.

"There is a bill presently pending in the United States Congress (H. R. 689) to create a system of national cemeteries in all parts of the nation. There is no doubt but that Indiana should be a part of that national system. As of Dec. 31, 1968, there were 543,000 veterans in Indiana; 70,000 from the Vietnam War, 108,000 from the Korean conflict, 322,000 from World War II, and 43,000 from World War I."

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

VFW to Press For National Cemetery Here

T.H. Trib. 8/29/69

A top official of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) says the national VFW organization will continue to press for creation of a national cemetery in this area.

The United War Veterans Council of Vigo County has been pushing for the establishment of such a cemetery on a 2,300-acre plot of land about five miles south of Terre Haute.

In response to a letter from Alexander Heller, council commander, to U. S. Representative John T. Myers (R-Ind.), Francis W. Stover, VFW national legislative director, said:

"Thanks for sending me this information, and you can rest assured (that) your VFW will be continuing to extend every effort to have legislation approved which will authorize the establishment of a national cemetery in your area."

Heller's letter expressed alarm over reports that the federal General Services Administration (GSA) is planning to sell the government-owned land just south of the Vigo plant of Chas. Pfizer & Co.

The property was part of a defense plant operation during World War II, and has remained in federal hands ever since. Veterans' groups have requested the property be transferred to the Veterans Administration for use as a cemetery, rather than sold.

Heller noted that there is no other place in Indiana where a national cemetery is being proposed, and the national VFW has gone on record favoring one such cemetery in each state for burial of the nation's war dead.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

T.H. Cemeteries
**Myers Speaks
For National
Cemetery Here**

Alexander Heller, commander-elect of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, told the TRIBUNE Monday he had received a copy of the testimony presented Nov. 17 by 7th District Congressman John T. Myers (R-Ind.) before the special subcommittee on cemeteries of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, in behalf of a national cemetery in Vigo County.

Rep. Myers' testimony follows:

"Mr. Chairman, the purpose of my coming before this hearing today is to request consideration for a National Cemetery to be established in Vigo County, Ind.

"At the present time, there is no National Cemetery located in Indiana. If a family wishes to have a deceased veteran interred in a National Cemetery, they must go a considerable distance out of state. This unfortunate situation has deterred many from exercising the last privilege and right of a veteran. We, as Americans, have a responsibility to these veterans and we must not shirk it by allowing this plight to continue.

"There are a number of substantial advantages for locating such a cemetery in Vigo County. Public lands are available on the vast farm lands of the Federal Penitentiary located near Terre Haute, which is in the middle of the large mid-West population concentration and convenient to Indianapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, and many smaller cities. Vigo County is a beautiful section of the country and would provide an ideal setting for a final resting place for the honored servants of our country.

"There has been a great display of interest for a National Cemetery from the Veterans and Veterans' organizations within my district, as well as those in the surrounding areas and states, and I believe that these veterans deserve our most active consideration.

"I respectfully urge the committee to honor this request and include in its recommendation a National Cemetery in Vigo County, Indiana."

Heller said that Highland Lawn Cemetery is the only cemetery in the county which has a special section for veterans. Only 55 gravesites remain for this purpose, and they are used at the rate of approximately 24 per year at Highland Lawn.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

NATIONAL CEMETERY

Vigo Co. cemeteries
**Myers Favors
STAR 11/24/70
Vets Cemetery
For Vigo Area**

A national cemetery to be located in Vigo County has been proposed by U. S. Rep. John T. Myers (R., 7th Dist.) Alexander Heller, commander-elect of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County announced Monday. Heller said he had received a copy of the testimony presented Nov. 17 by Congressman Myers before the special subcommittee on cemeteries of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, in behalf of the national cemetery in Vigo County.

Congressman Myers' testimony follows:

+ + +

"Mr. Chairman, the purpose of my coming before this hearing today is to request consideration for a national cemetery to be established in Vigo County, Ind.

"At the present time, there is no national cemetery located in Indiana. If a family wishes to have a deceased veteran interred in a national cemetery, they must go a considerable distance out of state. This unfortunate situation has deterred many from exercising the last privilege and right of a veteran. We, as Americans, have a responsibility to these veterans and we must not shirk it by allowing this plight to continue.

"There are a number of substantial advantages for locating such a cemetery in Vigo County. Public lands are available on the vast farm lands of the Federal Penitentiary located near Terre Haute, which is in the middle of the large Midwest population concentration and convenient to Indianapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, and many smaller cities. Vigo County is a beautiful section of the country and would provide an ideal setting for a final resting place for the honored servants of our country.

+ + +

"There has been a great display of interest for a national cemetery from the veterans and veterans' organizations within my district, as well as those in the surrounding areas and states, and I believe that these veterans deserve our most active consideration.

"I respectfully urge the committee to honor this request and include in its recommendation a national cemetery in Vigo County, Indiana."

Heller said Highland Lawn Cemetery is the only cemetery in Vigo County that has a special section for veterans but explained that only 55 gravesites remain for this purpose. Heller indicated the gravesites are used at the rate of 24 a year at Highland Lawn.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Cemeteries (Vigo Co)
Cemetery Bill
Community Affairs File
May Boost
Vigo Project
T JUN 20 1973

The signing of the new National Cemetery System bill by President Nixon has been hailed as a major step toward the establishment of a national cemetery in Vigo County by leaders of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County.

In a letter to Congressman John T. Myers, Alex Heller, adjutant of the local UWVC said, "It is with a great deal of interest and appreciation that I, and I am sure a majority of veterans in Indiana, read and heard of the signing of the new National Cemetery System bill by President Nixon.

"As you know, the United War Veterans Council, some six years ago, initiated resolutions which were later endorsed by all veterans groups and organizations as well as others on both the local, state and national levels for a new national cemetery to be located in Vigo County, south of the City of Terre Haute and on some 2,600 acres of land owned by the government of the United States."

Noting endorsement also by former Indiana governors Roger Branigan and Edgar Whitcomb and by resolution of the Indiana General Assembly, Heller says that the Vigo County site proposal is the only site officially put forth in Indiana.

The land proposed for the site stretches from the Wabash River to Ind. 63 just south of the Pfizer, Inc., plant on the U.S. Government reservation that surrounds the Terre Haute Federal Penitentiary.

Heller says that, with the national cemetery legislation signed into law, "... all speed should be exerted for the implementation and the establishment of the cemetery in Vigo County."

He reports further that remaining steps required to insure that development include action by the several agencies now operating national cemeteries to transfer operations to the Veterans Administration and Congressional action designating Vigo County as the first cemetery established under the new law.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Cemeteries (Vigo)
Heller Wants
JUL 1 1973
Action on
Cemetery

Community Affairs File

A stumbling block has appeared in efforts to obtain a National Cemetery site on federal land south of Terre Haute on Ind. 63, according to a report this weekend from Alex Heller, adjutant of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County.

Releasing copies of correspondence between himself and Congressman John T. Myers, Heller complained that the cemetery plan recently authorized is needed now, having "... been delayed several years while our congressmen and senators have been playing political football from one election to another."

Citing endorsements for the plan from veterans organizations, Indiana officials, a national morticians association and others, Heller took exception to Congressman Meyers' suggestion that a long-range study by the Veterans Administration will be required and that there remains some question as to whether the regional concept of cemeteries will finally be adopted.

The congressman also reported that he has "... received comment in opposition to the cemetery project."

Heller's letter demands, "Now please tell us just exactly who in the City of Terre Haute, Vigo County and the State of Indiana oppose the establishment of this facility which can only bring good to Indiana and Terre Haute."

The appeal observes also, "Had the Congress and the government of the United States been sympathetic to the needs of the veteran and the need for burial space for the veteran, particularly in Indiana where both of our National Cemeteries have been closed to veterans for the past three or four years, and particularly in Vigo County where burial for veterans, as near as we can compute, is now less than 100 graves spaces, Public Law 93-94 would have been enacted five years ago and grave sites for our veterans would have improved greatly."

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

**REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE**